

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper



Councillors from Poplar lead the march to the High Court and prison, July 1921.

No winners as rates soar

LOSERS ALL

the centre of the massive rate rises imposed by local councils over the last two years. (Previously, huge rate rises were caused by Labour governments also operating very strict controls on public spending.)

The Tory attack this year has mainly been centred around a re-allocation of the way in which money from central government is handed out. A new system has been brought into operation this year for the first time. This has had the deliberate effect of taking money away from inner city areas and handing it back to the shire counties. In fact, some Tory controlled councils are also having to put up the rates by equally massive amounts this year - the most notable being that of Kensington and Chelsea, ironically where Mrs Thatcher has her Flood Street home.

HARD-LINE

In Hackney, there was some opposition to the size of the possible rate rise became known. A hard-line group of left-wingers proposed that the Council should refuse to implement any rate rise, and refuse to make cuts in expenditure. This would mean that the Council would quickly go bankrupt and the government would be forced to appoint Commissioners to run the borough's affairs. However, this proposition met with little support - despite it being the official policy of the executive committees of both Hackney North and Hackney Central Labour Parties.

There was similarly low support for two further positions. One was for a 60% rate rise, without the £2 million unspecified cuts. The other was for a 50% rate rise with even bigger cuts.

The most labour-intensive of the Council's services is the Social Services department, and it is here that NALGO members fear that the unspecified cuts will fall.

Last financial year the social service budget was cut by 5%. Already the department has been affected by the

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In Poplar in 1921, thirty Labour councillors went to prison rather than impose the full rate rise required of them on the people they represented. In Hackney sixty years later the overwhelming majority of the Council again voted for a record rate rise for the third year running, after a battle in which, as one of them said, no one was the winner.

Hackney achieved the distinction of coming top of a Sunday Times list of rate increases, with the highest percentage rate increase anywhere in the country this year. And the rate rise has only been kept down to this level with a last minute decision to make a cut of £2 million from next year's budget - and it has not yet been decided where these cuts will fall.

This further cut is one reason why the white collar workers union NALGO is now in dispute with the Council. In particular, they are frightened that the bulk of these cuts will fall on Social Services, where many of their members work.

We look below at the NALGO dispute. First, we examine the background to the rate rise decision.

The particular loophole used by the Poplar councillors in their historic fight with a Tory government in the 1920s has been closed now, and most councils accept the fact that they have to raise the full rate on behalf of all the other authorities who get money from local people (like the GLC, the water authority and the police).

Most of the money spent by local authorities does in fact come from central government - and it is the Tories' attack on this funding which is at

and the police are both convinced it was a racist attack.

The fire was started by the racists placing a cardboard box filled with papers against the front door, soaking it in paraffin and then splashing paraffin over the door and frame.

"My two children and I were watching television with the lights out," said Mrs Yearwood. "I smelled smoke and Colin went to have a look. He told me there was a fire. When I opened the front door, the flames just came roaring in."

"We couldn't get out, so I filled saucepans of water and threw them on the fire until it went out. I am sure that it was started by someone who did it because we are black."

"It was only luck we weren't burned to death."

Hackney

Another of the many victims of growing racist attacks in the borough is the Singh family. Their Martello Street home was severely damaged by fire recently, and although Hackney Council had a statutory duty under the Public

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Racists strike again

Two recent attacks on multi-ethnic institutions in Hackney have increased local people's worries that further racist attacks may be being planned.

Over £1000 worth of damage was done to the Pan Africa Centre in Dalston Lane after inflammable liquid was poured through the letterbox and set alight. Fortunately the fire did not take hold and burnt itself out.

A day later the Family Centre in Rectory Road, Stoke Newington, a building run by the Hackney Council for Racial Equality, was broken into in the evening. Excrement was smeared on doors and walls and National Front slogans were daubed on the walls outside.

Coming so soon after the fire in Deptford, where 13 young black people died after what has been alleged was a firebomb attack, these incidents can be seen as part of a pattern.

Tottenham

In Tottenham the Welborn estate in High Cross Road

has been covered in racist slogans.

The slogans were not the work of a bunch of kids, since it was a very professional job. Ladders and stencils were used and the slogans were painted with black car underseal.

The Council were very slow to react and have only just started removing the paint which they have had to do by sand-blasting. So far the cost has been estimated at £10,000. However as the paint is removed new slogans appear.

In fact there is a police station at the end of the road, but they had seen nothing "suspicious", and had no idea how the slogans got there. It is thought that this recent piece of racist intimidation is the work of a branch of the National Front.

Newham

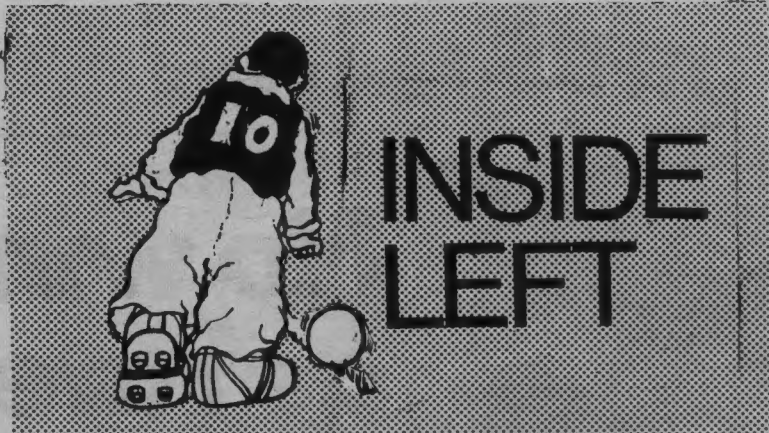
Police are still hunting two racists who tried to set fire to the house of a West Indian family in Custom House, Newham, on 5 March. The family

TAKING LEAVE

Sales of boxes of Kleenex tissues have plummeted to an all-time low in Stoke Newington this month, I can reveal today (writes Hackman Peeper, the man in the know and the dirty trenchcoat). Local storekeepers have always stocked up at this time of year in anticipation of big demand caused by the many tears shed by loyal constituents, as local worthies leave them to represent new pastures in new electoral battles. But this April, there are few cries of despair at the departure of Hackney North and Stoke Newington's man at the GLC, Ken Livingstone.

The position of GLC councillor is an odd one, and until recent years has tended to be occupied by people of no particular merit - and sometimes of quite considerable lack of merit.

One writer's telling description of them has been the Persons Unknown of local politics. However, there were hopes back in 1977. The first of a series of putsches inside the Labour Party threw up a left candidate in Livingstone. At the time of the election he promised a great deal for Hackney. He would move into the borough. He would devote his time to his GLC work, and so on and so on. Things were to change. Within a year our Ken was also a councillor in Camden, and became chairperson of its housing committee. He



was also the Parliamentary candidate for Hampstead, but didn't get in.

He became a full-time councillor, wearing so many different hats at once that it became impossible to tell who he was from day to day.

Now he has gone: but what of the party he has left behind? There are further ructions going on in one ward in Hackney North, Springfield, where there is to be a bye-election on the same day as the GLC elections. This has been caused by the resignation of George Armstrong. There is necessarily some alarm amongst the comrades of Springfield at this since this ward is where boring lone Tory Joe Lobenstein split the Labour vote and got elected in the 1978 elections. Thus the Tories will have good reason to be hopeful about getting some other loony into the Council

chamber. Or they would in normal times, which these, of course, are not. Labour must be thinking that no one could ever want to vote Tory ever again - whether they would want to vote Labour ever again is, however, a different matter.

DREADED

One good reason for not wanting to vote Labour this time is that one possible candidate is the dreaded Arthur Super, who has been bristling with rage ever since he was dumped from the councillorship before the 1978 show. Ex-policeman Arthur, who has spent his entire retirement writing letters to the Hackney Gazette, is joined on the shortlist by tenant activist Jack Davidson and Ian Draper, also a left-winger. One of these will probably stand down in order to reduce the chances of Arthur getting on.

What of the Social Democrats? That is the question what I am sure you are wanting me to answer. The Hackney Gazette must have raised a few hopes in mid-March when its front-page story was headed "Mayor and six councillors join Social Democrats". But it turned out to be in Islington, not in Hackney. By way of a little competition, perhaps readers (if there are any) would like to nominate which six Hackney councillors they think most likely to go over to the Clar-et-swillers. We will accept anonymous tip-offs; in fact we usually do.

Despite his pasting at the Hackney Central Labour Party GMC AGM when he lost his position as agent of the party, the new leader of the Council will be unlikely to be amongst the defectors. John Kotz has hit back at those who defeated him in an unusual way. He has excluded nearly all the centre-left (none of whom were really responsible for the battering that the old guard took in Hackney Central) from the selection committee for next year's council committees. These will be decided after this poor old paper has gone to press for the month, so you will probably find out as quickly as I will who is going to run what next year. I can tell you that Eddie Millen, the one person whom John Kotz is determined to keep on, is to become the new deputy leader. There will therefore be a vacancy on the Finance committee for a new chair. Steve Scott, the peripatetic travel agent? Wistful poet Bob Masters? Your guess is as good as mine...so why don't you have a go?

NO U-TURN

Dear HPP

I refer to your article by Inside Left in the March issue of HPP.

I am a bit surprised to learn from reading Inside Left that Hackney North is turning right. I always read this column with great interest - it is often informative, but on this occasion it is off-line.

The Labour Party in Hackney continues in the same mould as previous years in the sense that the policies remain the same, and, it is hoped, the dynamism remains.

There is often a change in personnel at AGMs in the constituency branches but I have not noticed any shifts in political alignment, as

LETTERS

suggested in your article.

I therefore write to correct the erroneous information supplied and call upon your readers to support the Hackney North Labour Party in its fight for socialism by voting for Gerry Ross in the GLC elections and by joining the party.

Yours sincerely

Howard Pallis

Secretary Hackney North CLP.
8a Beatty Road, N.16.

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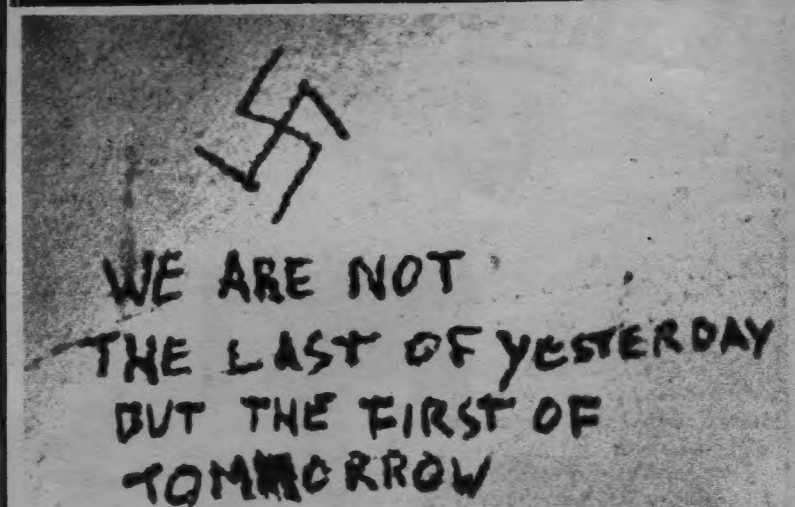
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Membership Secretary, Hackney Central Labour Party, 96 Dalston Lane, E8.

Published by B Heaven, 4 John Campbell Road, N.16.



Racists strike

Continued from p.1

Health Act to find the Singhs alternative accommodation, the family had to live in appalling conditions for months before they were finally rehoused. Why did it take so long?

Part of the problem seems to be the attitude of local authority officers towards the victims of such attacks. At a time when public spending budgets are being cut, it is obviously difficult for the Housing Department to find suitable alternative accommodation for families. But immediate action is essential if the victims of this violence are to have any confidence in the authorities responsible for the protection of their homes. And transferring people to other accommodation doesn't solve the problem.

William Ackroyd, a solicitor at Hackney Law Centre, said that racial harassment is widespread in Hackney and that there is a growing lack of faith among black people in the ability of the local authority to deal with the situation. "I do sympathise with the Housing Department about the problems of rehousing such families," he said. He also went on to comment that by moving the family to another estate it was a victory for the overt racist. Rather than adopting a policy of rehousing the people involved which, if taken to its logical conclusion, would lead to segregated estates - just what the racists want. (A more effective approach would be for the

Council to repair the homes.) It is obvious that as the majority of council officers are white, they are unable to fully understand the situation of people who are victims of racial abuse. It is also obvious why black people lose confidence in the authorities when they are told that maybe they are to blame for the attack. Take, for example, the case of the New Cross fire when the police suggested that the blaze was caused by a friend of the family.

One of the ways the Council can achieve a better relationship with black people is to appoint more black officers in their departments. Another is to form much closer links with tenants' associations and to discuss the problems of racism on estates, and how they arise - not least through appalling housing conditions.

This view was expressed by Pete Ramsden, who helped to write a recent report by the London Housing and Race Forum on housing conditions and racist attacks. He claimed that the Council has always taken a patronising attitude towards the tenants' movement and as a result tenants' associations haven't been effective on estates. He echoed the views of William Ackroyd by saying that the authorities should make the repairing of damaged houses the first priority and if transfer is necessary, then it should be done quickly and fairly. The unions concerned should also take part in combating racism and members should be made aware of the issues involved.



**nelson
mandela**

Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress of South Africa, is serving a life sentence on the notorious Robben Island, a prison off the coast of Cape Town. He was jailed in 1962.

At his trial he told the court: "During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African people. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society...it is an ideal I hope to live for, but, if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

Oliver Tambo, President of the ANC, who studied and worked with Mandela for many years, summed up his stature with these words: "His inspiration lives on in the heart of every African patriot. He is the symbol of the self-sacrificing leadership our struggle has thrown up and our people need. He is unrelenting, yet capable of flexibility and delicate judgement. He is an outstanding individual, but he knows that he derives his strength from the great masses of people who make up the freedom struggle in our country."

The Hackney Anti-Apartheid Group will be holding a film and social evening in support of Nelson Mandela on Sunday 3 May, from 7-12 pm, at the All Nations Club in Martello Street, E8 (see advert).

For information about Anti-Apartheid activities in Hackney, please contact the group at Box 30, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

HEALTH & (WAR) EXERCISE

At its meeting on 18 March, the City & Hackney Community Health Council (CHC) condemned the preparation by the City and Hackney Health District of plans for the aftermath of nuclear war.

Health districts have been asked by the regional health authority to draw up plans for the health service in war time. These plans, it is reported, include instructions for the withdrawal of medical services following a nuclear attack until the dust settles and the stopping of civilians moving out of the City. The CHC asked for a copy of the plans but have been told that when the detailed plans are complete it will be the responsibility of a district management team or comparable group of people to decide on distribution.

The decision to prepare or not to prepare for a nuclear war is a policy matter and the CHC is angry that plans are being made and resources spent on these plans before any discussion has taken place publicly in the area

health authority. Hackney Borough Council who have representatives on City and East London AHA have refused to participate in war planning.

Aftermath

City and Hackney CHC therefore passed a resolution in the following manner: "City and Hackney Community Health Council is resolutely opposed to any preparation for the aftermath of a nuclear war. We deplore the diversion of resources, financial or otherwise, that the drawing up of these plans entails".

City and Hackney Community Health Council believe that it would be more appropriate to use resources for the development of good health services now than prepare for the aftermath of a holocaust.

City and Hackney CHC will have a stall at the Peace Fayre organised by Hackney Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament on 25 April in the Assembly Rooms at Hackney Town Hall.



Pictures from an exhibition held at the Pan Africa Centre Dalston Lane. The exhibition was open to the community and encouraged local schools in particular to attend. The Mozambique, Angola & Guinea-Bissau Information Centre (MAGIC) supplied photographs on aspects of life in Angola and Mozambique, and there were also stands from the National Association for Multi-Ethnic Education on racist literature in schools. On just the first day of the exhibition the Centre was packed.

MPs TOLD OF O'HARA SCANDAL

On 6 March, Stanley Clinton Davis MP told Parliament how the mystery of what happened to diabetic Matthew O'Hara in Pentonville Prison between 12 and 16 March last year still remained unresolved after 12 months of questioning.

Matthew, jailed for seven days for contempt of court in a rates case, died last June after becoming ill from lack of insulin in the prison. Lord Belstead, the Prisons' Minister, told Clinton Davis that Matthew, "concealed" his diabetes, but Matthew's doctor argues that even if this was so, it is difficult to believe Matthew was not neglected. For half an hour the Commons listened to the MP's case and a reply from Home Office Minister Partick Mayhew. The proceedings were dignified and courteous...in marked

contrast to the offensive manner in which Lord Belstead has treated the matter. Mayhew revealed a few of the facts Belstead had concealed. He told MPs Matthew was in a double cell (but did not say if his cell mate was asked about what happened). He also revealed that Pentonville doctors were not told Matthew was seriously ill until 8.15 am on 16 March. An ambulance arrived at 8.45.

Mayhew's answer turns the spotlight on the warders. As repeatedly pointed out in HPP, Matthew's illness could not have developed suddenly. Even a prison warder should have realised a prisoner was not well when he was vomiting, coughing blood and increasingly confused and lethargic over a period of up to two days. Why weren't the doctors told? The question remains unanswered, but Mayhew has promised Home Office co-operation with an inquiry by the Parliamentary Commissioner.

BPC : Maxwell Caves In

The BPC 65, who were sacked when they occupied the MacDonald Educational buildings in Worship Street, have been reinstated unconditionally. The occupation started back in December against the threat of redundancy for seven of the workers. The occupation remained completely solid against threats and intimidation from the management. Now after four months of occupation, the British Publishing Corporation, recently bought by the notorious Robert Maxwell of Pergamon Press, has given in to the strikers unconditionally. The company is now holding talks with the unions about future staffing levels.

The barricades go up: on Sherry's Wharf...

The GLC's prestige housing development at Sherry's Wharf next to Kingsmead estate is now under siege. The flats were occupied by the Sherry's Wharf Action Group on 1 February, supported by the Squat Against Sales campaign.

Since the possession order was granted, the squatters have barricaded themselves into one of the blocks of flats on Liberation Square.

The Squat Against Sales (SAS) campaign, formed after

the Kilner House eviction, predicts another huge police operation at Sherry's Wharf. The Action Group has organised a telephone tree, and received support from local unions and tenants' association so as to be prepared for the eviction. The action group believes that the police will swoop the first week in April, and welcome all support to people the barricades.

...and on Nightingale

The giant Nightingale estate on Hackney Downs now has a new action committee to spearhead its attempts to block the proposed rents and rates increases.

The Nightingale Estate Action Committee emerged after a meeting of tenants on Monday 16 March. The tenants decided to withhold the increases in support of a rent and rates freeze.

The new Committee, which is open to all tenants on the estate, has organised a petition to find out the local reaction to the increases. "Tenants are genuinely angry about the level of increases. They simply cannot afford to pay them. The idea of a rent and rate freeze is gaining widespread support," a spokesperson claimed.

FREEZE

Another public meeting is planned for Thursday 2 April. The Committee will then present a more detailed account of how the rent and rate freeze can be put into action. Before then they will be contacting other Tenants Associations in the borough and invite them

to the meeting, in the hope of spreading the action to other estates.

ACTION

Nightingale is a GLC estate. Hackney Council will be putting through increases in rent and rates on two local borough estates in the next few weeks.

The last time tenants took action over rent and rate increases were the rent strikes of the late 1960s and early 1970s in north and east London. During those strikes the tenants found that it was essential to reassure and give support to tenants threatened with eviction. In Tower Hamlets all eviction attempts were successfully foiled by large numbers of dockers and other workers protecting the flats. For the full length of the strike, from 1968 to 1971, not one eviction took place.

It is important that Nightingale estate does not become isolated so that tenants are victimised, and there must be some link up with workers and unions in the borough.

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Hackney TENANT

The monthly newspaper of the
Federation of Hackney Tenants Associations
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PLAY FOR DISABLED

We are now reaching the end of the first quarter of the Year of the Disabled, which, despite media publicity, does not seem to have penetrated very far into East London.

In Hackney, the Year is being marked by two dramatic cuts in the provision for handicapped children. The first involves discontinuing the funding to allow disabled children to go swimming in the City on Sunday mornings, and the second involves the closure of two ILEA holiday homes.

Optimism

On a more optimistic note, a small group of parents and interested local people has been formed to set up a summer holiday project to mark the IYD within Hackney. We have already found premises and set dates for the middle weeks in August. To date, there has only ever been one such holiday scheme in the borough, and that can cater for only 40 out of 2,000-plus children with some degree of disablement.

The London Borough of Hackney, while not itself making any special provision for sports or swimming for disabled children (or adults) did at least offer transport for a small group of children accompanied by volunteers, to have Sunday swims. For some children it is actually easier to be mobile in water than on the ground, and swimming has a therapeutic as well as a leisure function for many.

Withdrawal

Alone of all the boroughs providing transport for their handicapped kids, Hackney has decided to withdraw - to the disappointment of both the children and their volunteer helpers.

The ILEA countryside homes were crucial in providing the opportunity for disabled children to take a rare trip outside of inner London, and a much-needed one for their parents. In some cases, these are foster parents who may feel more reluctant to continue if basic support such as this is withdrawn. Since funding is awarded for "ordinary" holiday projects to take children away on holiday camps/country houses, it seems the more peculiar that homes especially designated as suitable for children with "special needs" should be lying idle.



We now want to widen our working party, apply for funding and draw up an exciting programme of outings, games, etc for the holiday, and to consider fundraising for extra resources and transport. If you have a child who would be interested in attending the scheme (to run during working hours each day), or would like to help set it up, come to a meeting on Thursday 9 April, at 11 am in the Hackney Play Association Office, Community Wing, Shoreditch Town Hall, 380 Old Street, EC1, or ring Amanda on 739 2394 or Sheila on 359 1889.

Kid's Stuff

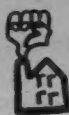
Dalston Children's Centre - a community centre for children of all ages and for the grown-ups who look after them - is still negotiating for the premises that Hackney Council promised them over a year ago.

In the meantime, they've been running one-off activities, but from 1 April, they'll be opening their temporary premises at 9 Sandringham Road, E8, for under fives, every Wednesday from 10 am till 12 noon. There will be lots of toys painting, sticking, jumping ...so children, bring your grown-ups along, they can listen to music and meet each other over a cup of tea.

HOUSING...

Housing coops are rapidly becoming the most popular form of DIY housing. From Camden to the east end, groups have successfully formed and persuaded local councils and housing associations to pass on to them short-life property, housing people at low cost.

It has been estimated that there are ever twice the number of empty houses in London as there are homeless people. Squatting used to be the only way of getting cheap accommodation. It is fraught with problems, usually culminating in a visit from the bailiffs and eviction.



Squatting is a very direct form of political action. Squatters in Switzerland and West Germany, dissatisfied with an affluent society and lack of youth and community facilities, recently fought pitched battles with riot police over the derelict buildings they had claimed.

In London squatters have consistently been evicted - most spectacularly from the mass squat in GLC property at the Kennington Oval - even if the authorities don't intend to use the property.

The present Tory government's moratorium on spending means that the amount of housing stock will not increase. The GLC and some local councils are trying to sell off houses - making a mockery of the long waiting lists - dramatically increasing the numbers of people who could be potentially homeless.

As the likelihood of getting a home recedes, and as private rents increase through increased demand many more people will turn to squatting as a last resort. The chances are that the authorities will still view this as a direct threat, and continue to evict.

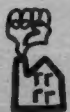
Squatting can often succeed as a short-term measure, but it isn't a strategy which appeals to everyone. The Advisory Service to Squatters (ASS) can help squatters with the legal hassles, and may even be able to suggest a property to try. There is even a squatters' "estate agent" in Camden who reckon that they have rehoused more people than the local council. The problem is still that squatting is a direct political action, and that the authorities will evict you.

Housing coops were born out of the squatting movement. As the squatters became more familiar with the law and how to use it to their own advantage, it became apparent that the authorities could be approached officially and be persuaded to part with the housing that they couldn't use.

"ALONG WITH SLUGS MUST COME A PROLIFERATION OF HOUSING COOPS: THE TROOPS TO FIGHT POLITICAL BATTLES, PUSHING FOR MORE PROPERTY, AND ON BETTER TERMS".

At any time, both the GLC and local councils have "hard-to-let" property, which because of its poor state of repair or the imminent arrival of a ring-road, cannot be let to people on the waiting list. The housing authorities also have property which they can't use.

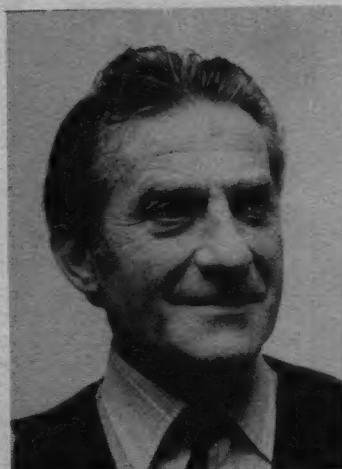
Housing coops are legally constituted entities with a constitution, an address, regular meetings, elected officers and share-holding members. The model rules are purchased from Shelter (originally for £90), and shares cost a nominal £1 each. The benefits in forming a legally constituted coop are that it enables the members collectively to approach a council or housing association for the property which they cannot use.



Since the coop is set up in such a way that the authorities know how to deal with (most notably by being able to sue the coop), the council agree to let houses as so-called "short-life" property. An agreement between the individual and the authority defines the tenure as being for a maximum of six months, although many people have been allowed to stay much longer.

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Hackney North



Les Jones
Hackney Central



Helen Rosenthal
Hackney South

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Published by Graham Sharp, 126 Amhurst Road, London E8.

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NUCLEAR SCIENCE

DIY, AND SLUGS

There are problems, however. The first comes in actually setting up the coop and getting people to come along to regular meetings. Responsibility often needs to be delegated and the coop may suffer from internal wrangles. Many coops only last for as long as it takes to house the members and when their tenancy comes to an end they often have to start again.

Another problem is in getting hold of property. It involves a lot of legwork, and the need to present a good face to the authorities.

Although most rents are nominal, the council or housing association can change the rules. Islington Community Housing (ICH) are presently engaged in a dispute with the council over a levy which is to be imposed on short-life property.



The cuts in government spending, and more particularly the diminished rate support grant (estimated to be around £20m less this year in Hackney) will mean that the amount of short-life property available will increase. It would seem to be an opportune moment to set up more housing coops.

The coops in Hackney are anticipating this increase in supply by proposing federation into SLUG (Short-Life User Group). This would be an umbrella organisation, determining priorities for the available property. As such they would become a voluntary extension of the authorities, managing a resource.

The Point...

Housing coops, like squatters, are making political points. Each says that the council cannot manage housing in London. The former have had greater success, probably as a result of being legal. Some would say that they are "legalised squats", subject to the changing whim of the authorities. Tenants have few of the rights which ordinary tenants enjoy - as ICH is finding to its cost.

Federation is a good idea when the resource is on the increase, and SLUGs will prove the way in which people can often manage their own affairs better than the authorities. The trouble is that the authorities may well decide to change rules as it suits them. Along with SLUGs must come a proliferation of housing coops: the troops to fight political battles, pushing for more property, and on better terms.

MORE ON SLUG IN THE NEXT HPP...

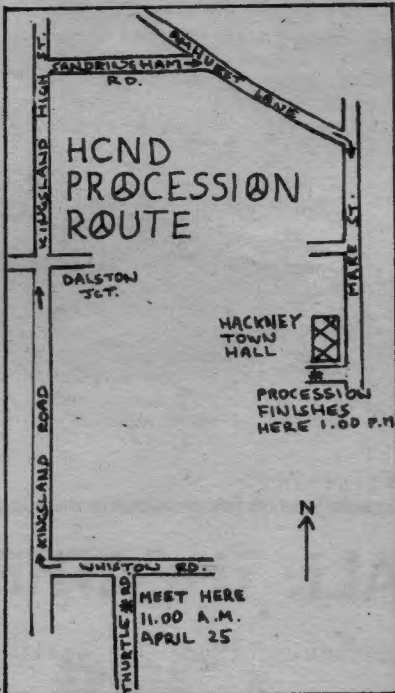
HCND celebrate life and peace

...On Saturday 25 April, 1-5 pm at Hackney Town Hall Assembly Hall, Mare Street.

An exciting one-day spring festival is to take place in Hackney to celebrate life and peace. Planned by the Hackney Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (HCND) for all the people in Hackney, their families and friends, the event will take place on Saturday 25 April from 1-5 pm in Hackney Town Hall Assembly Hall. It is to be a day of enjoyment for all ages with live music, theatre, many local groups with stalls and games, information and refreshments, interesting and informative exhibitions and a slide show on the realities of nuclear war.

Carnival

Daytime events include a lively procession through Hackney, led by Fall-Out, an anti-nuclear marching band. Meeting place and time is 11.00 am on the Saturday at Thurtle Road, off Whiston Rd, E2. Trade unions, political parties and the general public will have the chance to show their support for nuclear disarmament in a carnival atmosphere. This procession



finishes at 1 pm at Hackney Town Hall, in time for the opening of the Peace Fayre, with the opening ceremony where one hundred peace balloons will be released. This will be attended by the Mayor and Mayoress and well-known personalities.

At the Fayre there will be many local groups with stalls, lots of bargains, games and information. There will also be T-shirts, badges and balloons on sale, refreshments too, plus HCND raffle with great prizes. The Hackney schools' World Peace Poster Competition winners will be announced. Actionspace Theatre Group will perform "Blast-A-Mind", a comical anti-bomb play. Plus:

- *Tim Webb's Punch and Judy Show
- *Films
- *Exciting activities for the children
- *Anti-nuclear and peace songs sung by Pete Zero
- *A farcical bomb shelter demonstration

*Informative slide shows and exhibitions focusing on the serious and deadly aspects of nuclear weapons, and the destruction they would bring if ever used again.

Evening event: 8-11.30
Place: Hackney Town Hall Assembly Hall, price £1 at the door.
Live music to dance to from:
*Elgin Marbles
*Walking Wounded
*Tail Draggers
and disco by Brian Badgon. Fully licensed bar.

We are celebrating what we are for - life and peace - as much as what we are against - nuclear weapons.

There will be something here for everyone in Hackney. HCND hopes to see you on the day, and make sure you bring all the family! For further information, contact HCND.

S.Weber 359 2762
V.Lukens 249 6232

OTHER HCND EVENTS IN APRIL SEE PAGE 7.

LOSERS ALL

Continued from p.1.

- Increase in charges for nurseries by 20%.
- 18-20 jobs to go in the out-of-hours social work team.
- 30 jobs to go in residential staff.
- 25% of jobs in managerial staff.

vacancy rate imposed by Council leaders. There has been substantial delays in filling any vacancy that has arisen: for instance in 1978, there were the equivalent of 415 full-time home helps. Now there are 380 - at a time when the elderly population of the borough is rising.

Under pressure from NALGO members who were present in large numbers throughout the last social services committee meeting, the committee did not in fact propose any cut in its budget for 1981-2. However, with an unspecified £2 million still to be found it is quite likely that some of the measures that were discussed at that meeting will come back onto the agenda. Amongst these were:

■ Charges for disabled people for aids that are needed in the home. The proposal was to charge £10 or the cost of installation, whichever was the smaller.

■ Charges for installation of telephones for handicapped people.

■ Further cuts in the number of home helps.

■ Further cut of 5% in grants to community nurseries.

NALGO shop stewards also fear that the 'Hackney Factor' which is a special supplement to salaries to all Hackney workers may be cut altogether. This would save the Council £1 million over a year, if it was abolished for all workers. However NALGO has taken legal advice about this measure, and feels that the Council would have a very difficult job in re-negotiating all their staff's contracts to enable them to do this.

Joe Noble, secretary of Hackney NALGO branch, told HPP that the branch recognised that the real fight was not with the Council but with the Tory Government. "For this reason," he said, "we are supporting a member of the branch on the People's March for jobs from Liverpool to London and are working on the joint shop stewards committee with other union branches from Hackney Council to get the best possible support for the march when it comes to London on Saturday 29 May."

Small Ads

Centerprise, a multi-purpose community centre with a bookshop and coffee bar, requires new workers in the following areas:

1. a worker with responsibility for bookkeeping and coffee bar management;
2. a worker with responsibility for the building and the public office;
3. a worker to share responsibility for running the bookshop and helping with the bookkeeping.

All workers will be members of the Centerprise collective, sharing work and responsibilities throughout the project. Send a large s.a.e for details, specifying which job applied for. Closing date is 21 April. Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

Part-time worker wanted for local group which promotes and assists enterprises owned and run by the people employed in them. Must be committed to working with co-ops as a full member of a 3 person team. Salary £3523 (17½ hours per week). Call or write to: Hackney Co-op Developments, 16 Dalston Lane, E8. (Telephone: 254 3743.)

Hackney Building Co-operative.

For general building and fine woodworking. Tel 254 0692. After 6pm.

MAKE THIS SPACE WORK FOR YOU!

Take advantage of HPP's cheap small ad rates. Best value in East London - just 3p per word. Must be paid for in advance. Send your copy plus payment to HPP, 85 Dalston Lane, E8. May deadline is Fri 24 April.

WHAT'S ON April

THEATRE

LITTLE ANGEL MARIONETTE THEATRE
14 Dagmar Pass, Cross St, N1.
(Book by telephone on 226 1787)
Spring Season: 'The Little Mermaid' by Hans Andersen. Plus 'The Trojan Donkey' by the London Puppet Players.
For details of performances and ticket prices, phone the Box Office.

THE OLD HALF MOON THEATRE
27 Alie St, E1.

From Mon 6 April:
Belt and Braces Roadshow present: 'Coming Up'.
The play concerns a gay actor who returns home to his father's funeral to find himself excluded from family affairs.
Perfs: 8 pm, Mon-Sats.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD
Gerry Raffles Sq, E15.
(Box Office: 534 0310)

From 2 April: 'Chorus Girls' by Ray Davies and Barrie Keeffe. 'It's an historic day for Newham', says an alderman as he officiates at a celebratory closing show at the Theatre Royal before it re-opens as 'the biggest job centre in Europe'. But an unexpected chain of events unfolds when the all-woman cast steps out of the chorus to take over the show.
Perfs: 8 pm Mons - Sats.

Sun 5 April: Benefit Concert For Chile organised by the Chile Solidarity Campaign. The event has been billed as one of the biggest and brightest evenings of the year. (Starts 7.30 pm.)
Taking part are a number of members of Alternative Cabaret, among others:
Disband - presenting a blend of rock, comedy and schmaltz. With Jacky Taylor and Jean Hart (ex-Sadista Sisters) and Paul Kessel and John Fiske (ex-Belt & Braces).

Plus: Alexei Sayle, Pauline Melville, Jack Warshaw and Peni Mai Mai, featuring the Children of London's Chilean Refugee Community.
Holding the show together will be Harry Landis and Jo Richardson MP.

Tickets: £2, £3.50 & £5.
(20% discount on ticket orders over 10 - £5 & £3.50 tickets only). Tickets are available from:
Chile Solidarity Campaign, 129 Seven Sisters Rd, N7.
and Theatre Royal Box Off.

Further details from Chile Solidarity Campaign (tel: 272 4298).

MUSIC

CROWN & CASTLE

Dalston Junction, E8
(Telephone 254 3678)
The Meeting Place folk club has Irish folk music every Friday, Saturday & Sunday evenings, performed by resident band Cara, plus surprise guests.
8.30-11.00 pm. Free.

THE PEGASUS 109 Green Lanes, N16. (226 5930)

Mondays: Brett Marvin & The Thunderbolts.
Wednesdays: J.J. & The Flyers.
Thurs 2, 9, 30: Hank Wangford.
Fridays: Juice On The Loose.
Saturdays: Big Chief.
Sun 5, 12: C-Sharps.
Sun 19, 26: Soul Band.
Admission (unless otherwise stated): £1.



DISBAND - one of the groups taking part in the Chile Solidarity Campaign's Benefit Concert for Chile at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East on Sunday 5 April.

CHILE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

Sun 5 April: Benefit Concert for Chile. See Theatre Royal listings for details.

HACKNEY MUSICIANS' COLLECTIVE

Bands in the Collective play every Monday night at the Earl of Aberdeen pub (corner of Grove rd & Roman Rd), Bethnal Green, E2, from 8 pm till midnight.
Entrance: 50p.

CINEMA

KONAK CINEMA 11 Stoke Newington Rd (254 2415)
April Programme

Sun 5: The Long Good Friday (For 7 days)

Sun 12: Superman II

For the rest of the month's programmes, phone the Box Office.

Tickets: £1.70 adults; £1.00 children.

RIO CINEMA 107 Kingsland High St, E8. (254 6677)

For details of this month's programme, see the Rio ad.

MEETINGS

BIG FLAME

Meets at least once a month. Next open meeting on recent Big Flame Women's Pamphlet, 'Walking a Tightrope'.
Details obtainable from:
Box 33,
136 Kingsland High St, Hackney E8.
Some of our publications are on sale at Centerprise, Kingsland High St, E8.

HACKNEY FIGHTBACK

Meets on the first Monday of the month. Meetings are open to affiliated groups, to discuss strategy for fighting cuts in local services.
8 pm at the Labour & Trades Club, 96 Dalston Lane, E8.

LONDON FIELDS FESTIVAL 1981

The London Fields Festival Committee is now planning for its 1981 event. It needs your ideas to make this one even better than the last.
Contact: Carol Tilbury on 254 2114, or Joe Davies on 249 4802, for dates and venues of meetings.

ADVERTISEMENT

HOXTON HALL THEATRE

128a HOXTON STREET, LONDON N1 (Tel: 739 5431)

APRIL EVENTS IN THE MUSIC HALL THEATRE

- * Friday 3 April..... A Multi-Cultural Festival for Spring - with Hoxton Theatre Project in association with local schools and community groups.
at 7.30 pm
- * Friday 10 April..... Mr Plumpton's Penny Music Hall presented by Hoxton Theatre Project.
at 8.00 pm
- * Thursday 16 April... Ho-Down (country n' western barn dance) with Hoxton Theatre Project in association with The Shoreditch Festival.
at 8.00 pm
- * Friday 24 April..... Will Gaines - The highly entertaining Vaudeville tap dancer.
at 8.00 pm

Admission: £1 (concessions for unwaged and OAP's)
For further information, phone the box office.

If you want a free listing in our What's On section, send details of your event to HPP, 85 Dalston Lane, E8. Listings for the May issue should be sent by April 17.

ADVERTISEMENT



42/44, Brooksby's Walk, London E9. 986 6714

APRIL AT CHATS PALACE

- | | | |
|-------|------|--|
| Thurs | 2nd | Jazz: Alan Wakeman |
| Fri | 3rd | Benefit for Chats Palace: Black Market + Monkey Business + |
| Sat | 4th | Mr George Binmore's Celebrated Music Hall Alternatives |
| Sun | 5th | 12.00 noon Lunchtime jazz with Graham Read |
| Sun | 5th | Mr George Binmore's Celebrated Music Hall |
| Thurs | 9th | Chats Ymas Show '81: Planning meeting + a film |
| Fri | 10th | HMC Benefit: International Rescue + Lazy Lizards + N.16 |
| Sat | 11th | Barnes Theatre Group in "Silent Screaming" - outstanding play about the right of the mentally-handicapped. |
| Sun | 12th | 12.00 noon Lunchtime jazz with Brasso |
| Thurs | 16th | Hackney Marsh Fun Festival Revival Meeting |
| Fri | 17th | Benefit for Hackney Rock Against Racism |
| Sat | 18th | Controlled Attack Theatre in "Tales From The Wreckage" - horror stories from contemporary east London |
| Sun | 19th | 12.00 noon Lunchtime jazz with Graham Read |
| Thurs | 23rd | Will Gaines - Tapdancer extraordinary. Almost the last dancer of the Vaudeville tradition. Book fast. |
| Fri | 24th | Save the Marshes benefit: Zipcode + Between Pictures + Strangers in the night |
| Sat | 25th | Chats Palace Social Night |
| Sun | 26th | 12.00 noon Lunchtime jazz with Mike Osborne |
| Mon | 27th | 7.30 GLC Election Special. Question-time with the candidates. Details to be announced. |

All events start at 8.00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. Club membership 25p p.a. Phone for prices of individual events and to reserve seats 986 6714

HOMERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

OTHER EVENTS



PAN AFRICA CENTRE

4 Dalston Lane, E8 (254 8373)
Sat 4 April: The Pan Africa Centre invites you to a small get-together...Entertainment by children and adults. Organised by Ghanaian writer, singer and actor, Alex O'Connor. 4-6.30 pm. Free.

Saturday 11 April: Symposium on legal topics relating to the laws affecting black people in the UK. The aim of the symposium is to determine areas of free legal advice the Centre can provide to the community.
Speakers: Patrick Add and Fran Eden, on the immigration laws, plus speakers on other topics.
Symposium begins at 2 pm at the Pan Africa Centre, 4 Dalston Lane, E8. (254 8373)

HORIZON DANCE GROUP

Come and join in Indian dance classes for children of different countries of the world. Classes take place at The Factory Community Centre, 107 Mathias Rd, N16, every Monday from 4-6 pm. (Tel. 244 3066)
Age: 4-12 Years (girls).
Boys & girls who would be interested in learning Indian instruments like tabla and harmonium, please enrol your name soon.

NO PASS LAWS HERE! CAMPAIGN

Thurs 9 April: Public meeting to discuss the introduction of new immigration controls. No Pass Laws Here! is the slogan of a campaign being mounted by several organisations: black groups, law centres and advice agencies. The meeting is to be held at 6.30 pm at the Institute of Race Relations, Pentonville Rd, N1.
If you have information to give about internal immigration controls, send it to: 'No Pass Laws Here!', c/o Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, 44 Theobalds Road, LONDON WC1X 8SP.

THE LONDON WILDLIFE GROUP

May 16-17: The London Wildlife Group is organising a weekend Workshop in Hackney on Nature in London. The aim of the workshop is to discuss what can be done about nature conservation in London. An important feature of the Workshop Weekend will also be to formally launch a major new environmental Trust for London.
'Nature in London' is taking place at and around Clissold Park School, Hackney. Cost for the weekend (there will be a total of 35 workshops) is £5.50 (£3.50 for non-wage earners, with meals supplied at cost. After May 8 it is advisable to book by telephone.
Details from:
'Nature in London'
London Wildlife Group,
2-3 Selous Street,
LONDON NW1. (403 2078)
Cheques & P.O.s made payable to 'Nature in London'.

EAST LONDON TROOPS OUT
MOVEMENT

Saturday 4 April: Troops Out Benefit. With Northern Ireland socialist folk group, People of No Property. 8.30 pm at the Labour & Trades Hall, 96 Dalston Lane, E8.



HACKNEY CND DIARY

Events in April

- Mon 6 Launch of Young CND Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8
- Wed 15 Showing of the controversial film, 'The War Game'. At The Assembly Rooms, Hackney Town Hall, Mare St
- Sat 18 London Region CND 11 am Demonstration. March to North East Section in Wanstead. Speakers procession, steel band, rally. Assembly point Mile End tube.
- Sat 25 Peace Payre. Starts 11.00 start with procession through Hackney. Live bands. Details - page 8 pm
- Wed 29 Public Meeting. With speakers Bruce Kent (National CND) and Stuart Holland (Lab MP & END activist) Assembly Rooms, Town Hall, Mare St.

HCND also hold a market stall every Saturday morning from 10 am - 2 pm on Kingsland Waste Market. They sell badges, books and give information.

PARENTS, CHILDREN & TEACHERS' CONFERENCE (PACT)

April 9: Conference for Head teachers, teachers, parents and other interested bodies to discuss recent initiatives in the involvement of parents in children's learning, and in particular to start these initiatives in Hackney.

Conference starts at 9.45 am at the Hackney Teachers' Centre, Pitfield Annexe, Pitfield Street, N1. Application forms from the above address, or telephone 729 4260.

HACKNEY ANTI-NAZI LEAGUE

Sunday 12 April: Film Benefit for the New Cross Fire Fund. With films 'Blacks Britannicus' and 'Southall on Trial'. 12 noon at the Rio Cinema, Kingsland High St, E8.

DALSTON CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Monday 27 April: Play for under-fives called 'Nellie Ninelives Learns a Lesson'. 2 pm at the Huddlestone Centre. Transport to be arranged, so watch out for details nearer the time. Older children: watch out for the Easter holiday play-scheme, called: 'World Stories'

HACKNEY HEALTH CAMPAIGN

Tuesday 14 April: Public meeting on private medicine. With a speaker from Fightback. 7.30 pm at the Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, Shoreditch.

CAPTION
COMPETITION

Enter HPP's new c competition and win a star prize (not a ticket to "The Long Good Friday"!)

Send your captions to:
HPP competition,
85 Dalston Lane, E8

by Friday 25 April.
Two suggestions:

"I told you not to eat your breakfast in bed."

"Social Democrats looking for a policy."

A VIEW OF HACKNEY

By
Ken Worpole

Report from Hackney by Michael Young, Helen Young, Emma Shuttleworth and Wyn Tucker. (Policy Studies Unit, £2.50)

On the whole any attempt to seek out seriously people's opinions and suggestions about such important issues as housing and employment is worth having. To have it on such a specifically local basis is potentially even more valuable. There have been two quite opposing responses to the Report from Hackney so far. The Hackney Gazette characteristically highlighted the very worst opinions expressed by those interviewed and carried them triumphantly to their readers like a mangy dog who has grubbed out an old chicken carcass from an overturned dustbin. In contrast certain sections of Hackney's increasingly professional voluntary sector, for whom Hackney now seems to have attained the status of some kind of new Holy City (either Church of Rome or Church of Bologna), have lambasted the report for its pessimism, its failure to see that to live in Hackney is to live in the best of all possible worlds. Somewhere in between these two responses must lie a more balanced truth.

The report is based on interviews with some 929 adult Hackney residents, representative as near as possible with the general local population mix. The stimulus for this survey was to find out whether Hackney, as a typical inner city area, really did have exceptional financial needs requiring exceptional financial responses from central government, and what local people felt these needs to be. Some of the statistical findings are quite unexpected and very interesting, such as the finding that more than three out of four people in the sample have moved into the borough since birth, mostly from other parts of London or Britain. Hackney's housing patterns are quite different not only from the rest of Britain, but

from the rest of the GLC area as well. Owner-occupiers are in a distinct minority (although growing): 14 per cent of all housing in Hackney compared with 54 per cent of the UK population. Council tenancies, on the other hand, cater for some 56 per cent of Hackney's population compared with 30 per cent in the UK generally. One particularly significant aberration in these statistics is that of the Shoreditch area, which has a staggering 85 per cent of its population as council tenants. It could well be that the monolithic housing provision of that area has given a material form to the monolithic and completely static politics of a number of the residents there who have found in the rhetoric of the National Front something which matches their own lived sense of immobility and lack of choice.

This is by no means an objective report. It is clearly permeated by the political values which one associates with Michael Young, the Institute of Community Studies and probably the Policy Studies Unit which published this report. Those values are usually covert but are certainly disposed towards decentralised, small scale initiatives with strong consumer involvement, with producer cooperatives as the way forward in the field of industrial relations. A strong antipathy towards the trade union movement and the Labour movement in general is also characteristic. Hence the major absences in this report of any reference to the work of the political parties and the trade unions in the civic and social life of the borough: to write a report about life in Hackney without reference to the massive historical fact of a hegemonic Labour Council for nearly 50 years is certainly Hamlet without the Prince. And whilst one might agree with some of the models they propose - and in fact have started like Brass Tacks and the Marley Project - how you make the break from highly collectivised and authoritarian municipal "socialism" and the vagaries of the capitalist job market into cooperative commonwealth envisaged by this report is the problem of problems.

The report is haunted by a spectre that the interviewers clearly found disturbing but unable to address themselves to directly: racism. Racist attitudes insinuate themselves in one form or other on every page from the comments of the people interviewed. And being outsiders the interviewers have been unable to attribute cause and effect in the bitter siege mentality that they found so prevalent in their survey.

In fact, of course, the most powerful single agency in the promotion of such negative and self-defeating attitudes has been the Hackney Gazette. If the compilers of this report wanted just one single project which would improve the quality of life in the borough then that project would be the closure of the Hackney Gazette - or in order to avoid creating unemployment, a drastic change in its editorial policy. For week after week, Tuesdays and Fridays, all that local residents have thrown in their faces is court reports, rapes and muggings and atrocious cruelties to local hamsters. The fact that most people, despite all the circumstances, manage to live relatively decent and sociable lives in Hackney is to the Gazette unremarkable. Twice a week they paint a picture of life in the borough that makes Jack London's "People of the Abyss" look like a rural idyll. Hopefully when the authors are considering new projects to support they will include the East End News, whose success could make a very real difference to creating the conditions which would help dispel the very negative feelings people have about themselves and each other so assiduously cultivated by the existing local press. That there are clearly material grounds for enormous and very real dissatisfactions with regard to actual poverty, poor housing, unemployment, lack of childcare facilities is certainly revealed in this report, but that people have been, probably unwittingly, encouraged to turn against each other is the most serious of the damages that has been done and one that needs our most serious attention. KEN WORPOLE

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THE RIO
107, KINGSLAND HIGH ST., E.8.
Tel: 254 6677

Weekly Programme

Mon 30 Mar for 6 days Sitting Ducks (AA) & The Late Show (AA) (Perf. 5.30 & 8.55pm)

Mon 6 Apr for 6 days Gloria (AA) & Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore (AA) (Perf. 5.15 & 9.10)

Mon 13 Apr for 7 days Nine to Five (AA) (Perf. 6.15 & 8.35pm)

Mon 20 Apr for 6 days The Marriage of Maria Braun (AA) (Perf. 5.55 & 8.15 pm)

Sunday Matinees

Apr 5 at 2.45 pm The Wanderer (A) & Le Boucher (AP)

Apr 12 at 2 pm Death In Venice (X) & The Go-Between (AA)

Apr 19 at 2 pm Celine and Julie Go Boating (AA)

Apr 26 at 2 pm Fellini's Satyricon (X) & Roma (X)

Friday and Saturday Lates (all at 11.15 pm)

Sat 4 Apr Pink Flamingoes & Female Trouble (NB: Club screening. Membership available at the door.)

Fri 10 Apr Up in Smoke (X) & American Graffiti (X)

Sat 11 Apr A Safe Place (AA) & Tracks (AA)

Sun 12 Apr The Rocky Horror Picture Show (AA) & The Phantom of the Paradise (X)

Sat 18 Apr Last Tango In Paris (X) & A Streetcar Named Desire (X)

Fri 24 Apr Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (AA) Beyond the Valley of the Dolls (X)

Sat 25 Apr The Man Who Fell to Earth (X) & Scream and Scream Again (AA)

Children's Matinees (all at 2 pm)

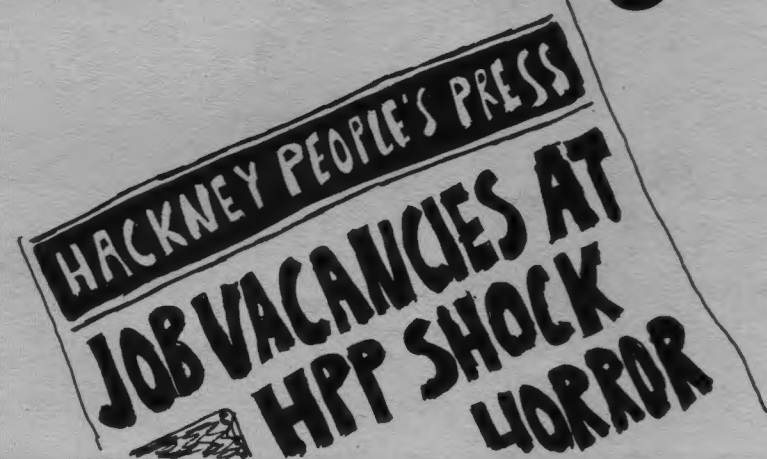
Tues 21 - Sat 26 Apr Race for Your Life, Charley Brown (U) & The Scarlet Buccaneer (A)

Mon 28 Apr - Sat 3 May The Land That Time Forgot (U) & The Crimson Pirate (U)

HPP needs you!

Latest bulletin from Leak, the official borough news agency in strife-torn Hackney is that the Hackney People's Press collective is urgently seeking new members. According to reliable sources, the collective is now down to about eight members and morale is low. Rumours that the Reagan administration is to send in a special team of 20,000 highly articulate advisers have been firmly denied by the collective. Nor is it true that the paper is to join forces with the recently formed East End News. A collective spokesperson said "This was just a rumour put about by them to attract more advertising."

A statement from the collective called the job "a challenging and rewarding way of spending your leisure hours, with plenty of scope for development. Applicants should have a thorough knowledge of everything and a willingness to work without financial reward. Salary is based on the Tory government's recommended rate of 0p, to go down as the inflation rate increases." The statement went on to say "We would like to see many more people coming along to



work on the paper. The collective spends most of its time sitting in a bush outside Hackney Town Hall, with the various Duncan Campbells, waiting for something to happen and, frankly, it's too much for eight people to handle."

A further development in the crisis is the news that somebody is buying copies of Hackney People's Press. "We are flabbergasted," said the spokesperson. "This must mean that somebody out there is actually reading the paper."

Little is known of this mystery reader except that she or he lives in the borough of Hackney and has access to 12p each month to carry out this daredevil purchase. Leading officials in the corridors of power are maintaining a tight-lipped silence. "We know nothing about this", said a man (he denied being a person) from the Monopolies Commission. "Someone must have leaked it to the press. No comment."

Members of the HPP collective are naturally anxious to contact this mystery reader. Overwhelming lack of response

in recent months has led them to suspect that, despite strenuous effort on their part to warn readers of its subversive nature, people are still buying the Hackney Gazette. "It's terrifying to think that some people are conned into spending 10p twice a week on the Gazette, when for 12p a month they get something far better."

HPP has now decided to launch a public appeal for news of the whereabouts of this reader, or readers. (It is possible that several people are sharing one copy.)

So reader, if you are reading this, please turn up at 8.00 on the evening of Monday 13th April, on the top floor of 85 Dalston Lane (over the Mecca Betting Shop). HPP is holding a special meeting that evening for anyone interested in the future of the paper. We really want to hear your criticisms of the paper and we badly need more people - particularly more women - to work on the collective - writing, laying out, raising money, selling... Or ~~come~~ come along to the HPP office on any other Monday evening or ring us on 249 8191 (days) or 249 0311 (evenings).

10 YEARS ON

Back in the dim and distant past was 1971. You may remember the year. Decimilisation, Edward Heath, a Tory Council in Hackney. Halcyon days!

In Dalston Lane something was stirring. There was established the first part of Centerprise, at that time the only bookshop in Hackney. And one that sold tea and coffee, gave advice, published books. Centerprise was later to move to its present site in its familiar livery of bright green in Kingsland High Street. Now it's an institution and it's 10 years old in May. We will be having a major feature on Centerprise's first 10 years in the May HPP, but we thought you might like to have some advance notice of some of the events that will be going on throughout the month.

If you've been a book buyer or advice seeker or tea-drinker or whatever of Centerprise at any time over the last 10 years, then perhaps you'd like to tell us what you think. (We won't pass on your name and address if you'd like us not to...!) Write to HPP, 85 Dalston Lane, E8.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

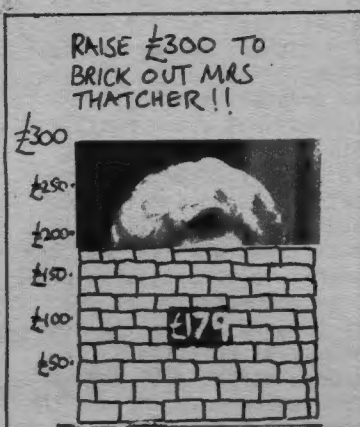
HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS holds regular meetings on Mondays at 8pm in our office at 85 Dalston Lane, E8. If you would like to find out more about us - or volunteer to help write, produce or sell the next issue - then please come along. Meetings in April will be on 6th, 13th and 20th. If you can't come, then ring 249 8191 (messages in day time) or 249 0311 (evenings & weekends).

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders and no one is paid by the paper.

HPP is your newspaper: anyone who lives or works in Hackney is welcome to come and help us. All decisions are made collectively.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and shops throughout Hackney. If you think that your newsagent would like to sell it, on sale or return, then please contact us. And if you don't think that you can spare the time to become more fully involved, but you enjoy reading HPP and think more people should read it, then please get in touch if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends or neighbours or at meetings.

FIGHT BACK FUND



Not such a good month for HPP's Fight Back Fund. We set a target of raising £300 in three months to pay off debts to our printers, and a further £300 to invest in vitally needed equipment. However the second month only brought in £65 - and £50 of this came in a very generous donation from the Hackney Branch of NALGO. So our total is now just £179. Not even two-thirds of the way there!

We can only repeat - this fund is absolutely vital for the survival of HPP. We will be organising other fund-raising events during May and June, but these will be part of our second phase - we must clear the back debt to our printers before then.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DONATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE NEED EVERY PENNY.

Special thanks to those who've donated so far: Roy Smith, John Searby, Aggie MacKenzie, David Green, Charles Foster, Shuja Shaikh, John Paton, Hackney NALGO, Hackney Coop Developments, Hackney Communist Party, Jane Bowden, Paul Walton.

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TROJAN

85 Dalston Lane, LONDON E8

Hackney's Community Printer now has a new suction-feed A4 offset press available to produce work for your organisation - CHEAPLY.... QUICKLY...and RELIABLY

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- * OFFSET PRINTING
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- * DESIGN and LAYOUT

Above Mecca Bookmakers.

Come up and see us -
Monday - Thursday 10.00-5.30
Friday 10.00-1.30

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